

**Remarks by PBA Vice President Andrew F. Susko, Esq.
PennCORD Meeting (Pennsylvania Coalition For Representative Democracy)
Tuesday, June 21, 2005**

Thank you Rick Stengell. It is a pleasure to be here on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in this wonderful building, which is a living testament to our Constitution and democratic form of government. While the beautiful building and numerous exhibits containing the message regarding our Constitution are vitally important, equally important are the people who are here today to advance this PennCORD initiative. The Pennsylvania Bar Association is proud to be a sponsor, along with the National Constitution Center and the First Lady Judge Midge Rendell in this very important effort.

The ideals of PennCORD, civic learning, are closely aligned with those of practicing lawyers. The civic learning advanced by PennCORD goes hand in hand with principles that lawyers cherish, including the application and acceptance of the rule of law and the independence of our judiciary. The PBA has long been committed to civic learning through our Mock Trial program, in which high school students act as trial attorneys presenting cases according to the rule of law; through our Stepping Out program, in which high school seniors learn of the rights and obligations they have as citizens after high school, and our Project Peace program, a project of which I am particularly proud, involving a peer dispute resolution program in partnership with Pennsylvania's Attorney General. This program emphasizes peaceful dispute resolution and is run by the students themselves, for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. The PBA's commitment to these programs run deep and its support for PennCORD's initiatives is unwavering.

I have another important function today and that is to introduce Pennsylvania's First Lady. It is my high honor and a personal privilege to present to you Her Honor, Judge Midge Rendell. No Pennsylvania lawyer, and especially no Philadelphia lawyer, practices law without knowing Judge Midge Rendell. I had the professional pleasure of appearing before Judge Rendell in a matter when she was a trial judge in the district court. I remember Her Honor exemplified the very best in our judiciary as she knew my case better than the lawyers themselves and, quite simply, she represents the best of what being a judge is all about. After time on the district court, Judge Rendell ascended to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals where she has served with distinction. She is a friend of the organized bar and, as First Lady, has served with great energy, enthusiasm and grace. It is my pleasure to present to you the heart of the PennCORD initiative, Her Honor Judge Midge Rendell.